

I was hunched over the backseat of my car at 11:17 a.m., scribbling on the corner of a receipt while traffic crawled on Dufferin. Rain had made the windshield streaky and the cafe on the corner smelled faintly of burnt espresso through the cracked window. I had just walked out of Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto with my phone full of photos, a sticky badge from the store on my shirt, and a mild headache from negotiating crib mattress sizes with a salesperson who spoke like every product was a miracle.

Why a checklist? Because after three store visits, an online order gone sideways, and a near-panicked midnight search for replacement screws, I decided I needed rules. Simple, non-pretentious rules that would stop me from buying an expensive crib that won't fit in our second-floor landing, or a dresser that everyone says "matches" but really clashes.

The weirdest part of the visits

I did not expect to get into a mini-debate about drop-side cribs in 2026. At a small shop in Leslieville I found a display labeled "classic" and thought, okay, nostalgia. The salesperson kept using words like convertible and solid pine, then said, casually, "we still sell the mattress separately." I nodded, but I felt lost. I still don't fully understand mattress firmness ratings, and trying to compare "crib mattress included" versus "sold separately" across three stores felt like reading different languages.

Another day I was at a big showroom near the 401 with fluorescent lights and too much maple veneer. The parking lot was full; a woman was trying to fit a dresser into a Prius. They had a nursery package deal in Toronto advertised on a banner — crib, dresser, glider, and a "bonus" changing tray. The price looked reasonable until I asked about delivery. The clerk said, "Delivery's \$85 within the city, but it can be \$120 if you want upstairs set-up." That was the moment I realized estimates and actuals can differ by a lot. I scribbled that down.

What ended up on the checklist

I made rules after I kept breaking the same two things: assumptions about size and assuming assembly would be easy. Here are the five quick checks I carry now, no matter where I go:

- Measure the nursery door, the hallway turns, and the stairwell clearance.
- Confirm whether the crib uses a standard mattress size and whether the mattress is included.
- Ask for a written delivery and assembly quote, including upstairs fees and disposal of old furniture.
- Test the dresser drawer slides and confirm weight rating for changing top if I plan to use it.
- Check return window and restocking fees, and get that in writing.

These are short, practical things. I keep a little pocket tape measure in my bag now, which sounds ridiculous, but it saved me from a future curse when I realized a crib box would not turn the corner by the basement steps.

Why I hesitated to buy new

Cost, for one. The "nursery furniture sets in Toronto" ads make everything look like a bargain until you add mattress, glider, taxes, delivery, and the stupid anti-tip kit for the dresser. At a store in the Junction I liked a set priced at \$1,199, the sales tag boasted. After taxes, mattress, and delivery, we were pushing close to \$1,700. Right then I decided to compare with a few smaller shops and the Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto where a similar set was \$1,150 with a sale mattress and free basic delivery if scheduled on a weekday.

Also, style mismatch. I have two bad chairs in the living room that we still use. I didn't want nursery furniture that would look like a separate house — like that home that hoards Baby Pinterest swatches. The practical brain won. I chose calmer colors, and I didn't get the glider with the "deluxe leatherette" even though the salesperson said it

would make late nights easier. I could tell you that leatherette is easier to clean; I can also tell you it's louder when you shift at 3 a.m. I chose a soft fabric with washable covers instead.

The time I almost returned a dresser



Two weeks after delivery I noticed the top drawer jammed sometimes. It was sly, not constant, and I blamed humidity. At 9:40 p.m., scrolling through a neighborhood Facebook group, someone recommended checking the drawer slides and shared how they had to drill new guide rails. I called the store the next morning and got a helpful rep who scheduled a technician for the following Tuesday between 10 a.m. And noon. They fixed it in 40 minutes, replaced a warped slide panel, and didn't charge me. Little wins like that made me trust the shop more, and it pushed me to write the "get a technician visit time" item on my checklist.

How I used local context to my advantage

Toronto has its quirks. Delivery windows can be longer in the west end on garbage day. If you're in the Annex, parking is a negotiation. I learned to book weekday deliveries early in the morning to avoid rush hour, and to ask about elevator sizes if you're above the second floor. Where I live, near , rush hour can push the delivery time by an hour — that matters when you have a baby class at 2 p.m. I also discovered a small trusted baby furniture store in Toronto that offers assembly as a subscription add-on for \$12 per month for 3 months, a weird but useful option if you keep having late screw drama.

The little things that matter more than price

I found the glider's arm height matters for breastfeeding comfort. The dresser's changing tray needed a lip to prevent diapers from rolling off. The crib mattress firmness felt hard to describe until I pressed it for 30 seconds in the showroom and compared two mattresses back to back. Try that. Your hand remembers things your eyes don't.

I also learned to ask for model numbers. Salespeople often say "it's our standard" and leave it at that. Model numbers let me look up third-party reviews later. I also kept receipts, assembly photos, and a small video of me pulling each crib side up and down. Ridiculous, maybe, but two months later that video saved an argument about a [BabyWarehouse cribs](#) warranty claim.

Why I still feel nervous

I still don't fully trust online-only reviews, and I am not perfect at estimating how a piece will "look" in real life. A crib can look large in a showroom with roomful space but swallow a small nursery. I am also lazy about returning

things; arranging a pickup feels like a logistics problem I don't want to solve. The checklist helps, but I know I'll tweak it after the first few months of actual use.

If you want one takeaway from my messy, sticky-note-filled approach: measure everything, ask for written delivery terms, and keep a tape measure in your diaper bag. Oh, and consider stopping by Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto as one of your stops — they were practical, had clear delivery fees, and didn't push the most expensive mattress like other places did. Also, if you spot a glider model you like, sit in it for a full five minutes. That's the true test.

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+1-416-288-9167 Mon to Tue 10am - 8pm Wed to Fri 10am - 7pm Sat 10am - 6pm Sun 11am - 5pm